

§ 54.609(e), that the requester has certified that it is serving eligible rural areas;

(3) [Reserved]

(4) The requested service or services will be used solely for purposes reasonably related to the provision of health care services or instruction that the health care provider is legally authorized to provide under the law in the state in which such health care services or instruction are provided;

(5) The requested service or services will not be sold, resold or transferred in consideration of money or any other thing of value;

(6) If the service or services are being purchased as part of an aggregated purchase with other entities or individuals, the full details of any such arrangement, including the identities of all co-purchasers and the portion of the service or services being purchased by the health care provider; and

(7) The requester is selecting the most cost-effective method of providing the requested service or services, where the most cost-effective method of providing a service is defined as the method that costs the least after consideration of the features, quality of transmission, reliability, and other factors that the health care provider deems relevant to choosing a method of providing the required health care services.

(d) *Annual renewal.* The certification set forth in paragraph (c) of this section shall be renewed annually.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 70 FR 6373, Feb. 7, 2005; 78 FR 13984, Mar. 1, 2013]

§ 54.619 Audits and recordkeeping.

(a) *Health care providers.* (1) Health care providers shall maintain for their purchases of services supported under the Telecommunications Program documentation for five years from the end of the funding year sufficient to establish compliance with all rules in this subpart. Documentation must include, among other things, records of allocations for consortia and entities that engage in eligible and ineligible activities, if applicable. Mobile rural health care providers shall maintain annual logs indicating: The date and locations of each clinic stop; and the number of

patients served at each such clinic stop.

(2) Mobile rural health care providers shall maintain its annual logs for a period of five years. Mobile rural health care providers shall make its logs available to the Administrator and the Commission upon request.

(b) *Production of records.* Health care providers shall produce such records at the request of any auditor appointed by the Administrator or any other state or federal agency with jurisdiction.

(c) *Random audits.* Health care providers shall be subject to random compliance audits to ensure that requesters are complying with the certification requirements set forth in § 54.615(c) and are otherwise eligible to receive universal service support and that rates charged comply with the statute and regulations.

(d) *Service providers.* Service providers shall retain documents related to the delivery of discounted services under the Telecommunications Program for at least 5 years after the last day of the delivery of discounted services. Any other document that demonstrates compliance with the statutory or regulatory requirements for the rural health care mechanism shall be retained as well.

[68 FR 74503, Dec. 24, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 12087, Mar. 15, 2004; 70 FR 6373, Feb. 7, 2005; 71 FR 13281, Mar. 15, 2006; 72 FR 54218, Sept. 24, 2007; 78 FR 13984, Mar. 1, 2013]

§ 54.623 Annual filing and funding commitment requirement.

(a) *Annual filing requirement.* Health care providers seeking support under the Telecommunications Program shall file new funding requests for each funding year.

(b) *Long term contracts.* Under the Telecommunications Program, if health care providers enter into long term contracts for eligible services, the Administrator shall only commit funds to cover the portion of such a long term contract scheduled to be delivered during the funding year for which universal service support is sought.

[78 FR 13984, Mar. 1, 2013]